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Docket No. F-7876

Ser. No. 10/606,628

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for supporting objects to identify, comprising:

an imaging device disposed to image a photographing section;

a moving belt configured to contact and advance the objects through the photographing section;

a line tensioned across the photographing section in the object transporting direction;

the line being disposed between the imaging device and the objects; and

the line being disposed opposing the moving belt such that the objects are retained by contact with the line between the line and the moving belt at least in the photographing section whereat the imaging device images the objects.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a frame configured to be detachably attached to the photographing section and having a photographing window across which the line is stretched tensioned;

upstream and downstream guides arranged at upstream and downstream sides of the photographing window, respectively, configured to support the line;

Docket No. F-7876

Ser. No. 10/606,628

a slide face formed at least on the upstream guide, configured to face the belt; and

a recess formed in the slide face, configured to receive the line, each of the objects transported by the belt to the photographing section being guided along the slide face on the upstream side of the photographing window toward the line so that the objects are supported between the line and the belt and transported thereby.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the objects are flat and have disk shapes of different diameters; and

a plurality of [[the]] belts and lines, including said belt and said line, are arranged in parallel with one another with the lines being distanced from one another and tensioned so as to support retain the objects between the lines and the belts and transport the objects of different diameters between the belts and the lines.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein:

the objects are flat and have disk shapes of different diameters; and

a plurality of [[the]] belts and lines, including said belt and said line, are arranged in parallel with one another with the lines being distanced from one another and tensioned so as to support retain the objects between the lines and the belts and transport the objects of different diameters between the belts and the lines.

Docket No. F-7876

Scr. No. 10/606,628

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said lines are strings.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said lines are strings.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said line is a string.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said line is a string.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for conveying and imaging objects, comprising:

an imaging device disposed to image a frame area;

a moving belt disposed to contact and advance said objects through said frame area;

a frame structure disposed at said frame area;

a line tensioned across said frame area by said frame structure so as to be taught;

said line being disposed between said imaging device and said objects; and

Docket No. F-7876

Ser. No. 10/606,628

said line being disposed opposing said moving belt such that said objects are retained between said line and said moving belt by contact with said line and thus retained in said frame area and imaged.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:
said frame structure being detachably attached to the imaging device and having a photographing window across which the line is stretched tensioned;

upstream and downstream guides arranged at upstream and downstream sides of the photographing window as defined by a transport direction of said moving belt, said line being held tensioned by said upstream and downstream guides;

a slide face formed at least on the upstream guide and configured to face the moving belt; and

a recess formed in the slide face, configured to receive the line, each of the objects transported by the moving belt to the imaging device being guided along the slide face on the upstream side of the photographing window toward the line and the moving belt so that the object is supported between the line and the moving belt.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:
the objects being flat and having disk shapes of different diameters;

Docket No. F-7876

Ser. No. 10/606,628

a plurality of moving belts which include said moving belt;
a plurality of lines which include said line; and
said lines and said moving belts being arranged in parallel with one another
with the lines being distanced from one another to support and transport the objects
of different diameters between the moving belts and the lines.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:
the objects being flat and having disk shapes of different diameters;
a plurality of moving belts which include said moving belt;
a plurality of lines which include said line; and
said lines and said moving belts being arranged in parallel with one another
with the lines being distanced from one another to support and transport the objects
of different diameters between the moving belts and the lines.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for conveying and imaging objects,
comprising:

an imaging device disposed to image a image area;
a moving belt disposed to contact and advance said objects through said
image area;
a structure disposed at said image area;
a line tensioned across said image area by said structure so as to be taught;

Docket No. F-7876

Ser. No. 10/606,628

said line being disposed between said imaging device and said objects; and
said line being disposed opposing said moving belt so as to contact said objects such that said objects are retained between said line and said moving belt and in said image area and imaged.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:
said structure being detachably attached to the imaging device and having a photographing window across which the line is stretched;

upstream and downstream guides arranged at upstream and downstream sides of the photographing window as defined by a transport direction of said moving belt, said line being held tensioned by said upstream and downstream guides;

a slide face formed at least on the upstream guide and configured to face the moving belt; and

a recess formed in the slide face, configured to receive the line, each of the objects transported by the moving belt to the imaging device being guided along the slide face on the upstream side of the photographing window toward the line and the moving belt so that the object is supported between the line and the moving belt.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:

Docket No. F-7876

Ser. No. 10/606,628

the objects being flat and having disk shapes of different diameters;
a plurality of moving belts which include said moving belt;
a plurality of lines which include said line; and
said lines and said moving belts being arranged in parallel with one another
with the lines being distanced from one another to support and transport the objects
of different diameters between the moving belts and the lines.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:
the objects being flat and having disk shapes of different diameters;
a plurality of moving belts which include said moving belt;
a plurality of lines which include said line; and
said lines and said moving belts being arranged in parallel with one another
with the lines being distanced from one another to support and transport the objects
of different diameters between the moving belts and the lines.